

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-45. (cancelled)

46. (new) A method for simplifying maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of a data object in a printer or copier, comprising the steps of:

providing a control unit external to the printer or copier connected to a first data line for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object;

providing in said printer or copier at least a first control unit and a second control unit and a second data line between said first and second control units for transferring data, said at least one first control unit being connected to said external control unit by said first data line, and said second control unit having said data object stored in a storage region thereof, said data object comprising a variable or a constant for control of the printer or copier;

associating a first identifier as a first network address with the first control unit and associating a second identifier as a second network address with the second control unit; and

associating a third identifier as a third network address which is different than said second identifier second network address with the data object to enable a simplified direct access to the data object by said external control unit for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object.

47. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the network addresses are hierarchically organized and the third network address is hierarchically subordinate to the second network address.

48. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the second network address is determined with aid of the third network address.

49. (new) A method according to claim 47 wherein a transfer path for access to the data object is predetermined by a hierarchical position of the third network address.

50. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein data of the data object are read out from the storage region of the second control unit by the first control unit with aid of the third network address.

51. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first control unit and the second control unit respectively form a network node.

52. (new) A method according to claim 48 wherein the third network address comprises a sub-address of the second network address.

53. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the data object comprises a parameter of the printer or copier and a value of the data object specifies a value of the parameter of the printer or copier.

54. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the control units are hierarchically organized, the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the first control unit, and the network address of the second control unit being hierarchically subordinate to the network address of the first control unit.

55. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein at least one third control unit is provided that is connected with the second control unit via a third data line and is hierarchically subordinate to the second control unit, the data object being read out by the third control unit via the third data line.

56. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the first data line comprises an HDLC network, and the second data line comprises a CAN network.

57. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein data transfer over the first data line occurs with aid of the Simple Network Management Protocol.

58. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein routers are provided in the control units, the routers forwarding a read request to at least one network address hierarchically subordinate to the data object.

59. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein a position of the data object in the network is determined with aid of the network address of the data object.

60. (new) A method according to claim 46 wherein the external control unit comprises a personal computer with software.

61. (new) A system for simplifying maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of a data object in a printer or copier, comprising:

a printer or copier;

a control unit external to the printer or copier connected to a first data line for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object;

in said printer or copier at least a first control unit and a second control unit and a second data line between said first and second control units for transferring data, said at least one first control unit being connected to said external control unit by said first data line, and said second control unit having said data object stored in a storage region thereof, said data object comprising a variable or a constant for control of the printer or copier;

a first identifier as a first network address associated with the first control unit and a second identifier as a second network address associated with the second control unit; and

a third identifier as a third network address which is different than said second identifier second network address associated with the data object to enable a simplified direct access to the data object by said external control unit for said at least one of maintenance, adjustment, or error analysis of said data object.